



**Delaware Bicycle Council
April 2, 2003
DelDOT Administration Building
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Don Carbaugh, Chair and New Castle County Representative
Tim Plemmons, At-large Representative
Fred Breukelman, Dept. of Public Health Representative
George Heberling, DE State Police Representative
Danna Levy, Council on Greenways & Trails Representative
Lisa Moore, Office of Highway Safety Representative

DelDOT Support Staff Present

Joseph Cantalupo, Assistant Director, Division of Planning
Wendy Bernard, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent

Jay Kelley, DelDOT Representative
Laura Madara, DNREC Representative
Paul Stevenson, NCC Representative
Amy Wilburn, At-large Representative
Judi Jeffers, At-Large Representative
Janet Arns, Dept. of Education Representative

DelDOT Support Staff Absent

Fritz Schranck, Deputy Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Possible Legislative Initiative

Mr. Bud Heberling needed to leave early, so Don started off the meeting with his topic instead of the Welcome and Introductions.

Bud had been doing some research for an article for the DBC newsletter regarding bicycle laws. He had found that Oregon had a new law where if a motorist recklessly injures a bicyclist, it's a misdemeanor crime instead of the issuance of a reckless driving ticket. The current law in Delaware for accidents between a motor vehicle and a bicyclist cites the driver with a ticket if the driver is not under the influence or if they didn't grossly deviate from normal driving. If the driver is found to be grossly negligent or under the influence, they can be found to be criminally negligent and charged with second-degree vehicle homicide.

Don spoke of an e-mail he received from Abby Reichardt whose father died while bicycling when he was hit by a tow truck. The driver of the tow truck allegedly was a repeat traffic violator, with multiple violations on his driving record. Ms. Reichardt was upset because the driver only received a ticket for the accident. Don suggested introducing legislation to make similar incidents 3rd degree homicide. Lisa M. suggested and Tim P. agreed that the legislation should be initiated by the citizen. They suggested she contact her state senator to introduce legislation because senator backed legislation usually stands a good chance of being passed. Joe C. asked if, for argument sake, everyone thought that a person who makes a mistake deserves a criminal record. Everyone agreed that if the result of the accident is a death or serious injury, yes, that was a viable outcome.

Fred B. suggested an educational program for cyclist safety citing incidents where he came close to hitting cyclists because there was heavy fog and the cyclists didn't have on any reflective clothing, didn't have any lights, and were riding in the middle of the road.

Don C would like to have mandatory drug and alcohol testing for any vehicle involved in a fatal accident with a cyclist.

Don then asked the Council if they could go on record as supporting some type of legislation concerning bicycling accidents. All present agreed that would be OK.

News Items

Joe C. discussed the new Sussex County Bicycle Laws brochure. The brochure came about when DelDOT was approached by beach area hospitals doctors who had seen an increase in bicycle related accidents. They wanted to do something to try and curb some of the accidents so they jointly decided to design a brochure that went over the DE bicycle laws. The resulting brochure is an easy to read, brightly colored brochure. The easy to understand format is also good for the beach area because they get many foreign tourists and students who don't speak English, but will still be able to understand the laws. The format is also good for children, so Joe decided to print a statewide version to be distributed as well.

Lisa M. asked if the brochure came in a format that could be posted on the DBC website. Joe asked if it would be all right with the Council to post it there. Fred asked it could be made available for other websites. Joe said it could be, but he thought it might be easier to have links to the DBC website to make future updates of the brochure easier.

Fred suggested that bicyclist's education focus on having lights on bicycles and not be aimed at traditional bicyclists. He also suggested a public service announcement featuring the victim's of accidents.

It was asked how the brochures would be distributed. Joe said someone from his office, Bobbie Geier, would be distributing the Sussex County version throughout the County, and we would be distributing the rest. Bud asked if they could be distributed at places where people buy bicycle's, especially for kids, like Wal-Mart. Don also suggested schools would be a good distributing point.

Fred also mentioned that all the people depicted in the brochure were not ethnically diverse and perhaps that could be changed. He also wondered if the Dept of Health had any money to print the brochure in Spanish.

Sussex Committee Task Force

Lisa M. said there wasn't much to report on the discussion over rumble strips. The next meeting will be held on Monday in Georgetown.

Council Membership Update

Don said the status of the membership had not changed since the last meeting.

Newsletter

Don was please with the response for articles for the current newsletter. Joe has secured a consultant and is working of getting funds to pay for editing and printing two newsletters this year. Staff from DelDOT will be responsible for distributing the newsletter. There should be a couple of day's turnaround from when the articles are submitted to the consultant to when it will be ready for distribution. Don said he would be willing to work directly with the consultant regarding the articles and layout if that was OK with Joe. Joe agreed as long as any funding issues were brought to him.

Don asked if the newsletter would be available in a format that could be posted on the DBC website. Joe said he would ask.

Website

The website is in good shape thanks to Donna Walton from DelDOT OIT. There is a new message from the Governor. The site will also be the featured "Hot Spot" for "What's Hot in DE" on the State's website for bike month now that the Governor's message is in place. Don said any questions regarding the website can be directed to him.

Dana L. expressed concern in that she hadn't heard much about Bike Month and thought that it could be better advertised. She thought possibly a press release or having it featured in some local newspapers leisure columns or community news might be a good way to get the word out.

Additional News Items

Joe C. had some other things to report on:

- Bike month T-shirts: Dave P. was working on them on his own time and should be completed soon. Don asked if fewer could be ordered this year so the Council's money could be used for other things.
- New Castle County Bike Map: We should be receiving shipment by the end of the month.
- Kent/Sussex Bike Map: We need to reorder more.
- Trinkets: Have been ordered.
- Bike Events: Joe thought it would be nice to have a representative from the DBC at some Bike Events and mentioned some that were coming up: April 12th-Dover/ Kent Co. MPO's Spring Fair and May 7th-Bike Rodeo at Dover Park.

- Effective Cycling: Dover Police is interested in the course and want to schedule one for their bicycle officers. Don ~~and Paul S.~~ volunteered to teach the 9 hr course. Fred B. suggested offering the course to the U of DE campus officers and student police aids. Lisa requested info about the course to pass on to those she thinks might be interested. It was also suggested that the Riverfront security staff be introduced to this course.
- Pedals for Progress: Joe spoke of a charity he heard of called Pedals for Progress. The group collects bicycles and sends them to third world countries in South America. Bicycling is a very important means of transportation there but not everyone can afford bicycles. They teach people how to refurbish them (teaching them a skill) and then the bikes get donated to the people. The group just needs a sponsor and a few people to help staff the locations. Joe was working on having a day where there would be collection sites in all three counties. He was wondering if this was something the DBC would be interested in working with.
- Safe Routes to School: The notice to proceed to the consultants would be going out shortly. The consultants should have a sample plan within a couple of months.

Fred reported that May 10th is the Walk and Bike across DE event.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.